Problems faced by Private Operators in Handling of Cargo

1621. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main problems that are being faced by private operators in handling of cargo at ports are the large number of clearances required from various Government agencies;

(b) whether these clearances start right from the gram panchayat and go right upto the Ministry level; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such clearances are required for handling cargo by the private operators at Major Ports.

(c) Does not arise.

Cargo handling facilities at new Mangalore Port

1622. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering augmentation/ modernisation of cargo handling facilities at New Mangalore Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new berth expansion projects have been cleared and quantum of funds allocated; and

(d) by when, the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New Mangalore Port is planning augmentation of cargo handling facilities during the 10th Five Year Plan period. However, to add to the Port capacity, an additional General Cargo Berth (Deep Draft Multi-purpose Berth) is scheduled to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 37.54 crores.

(c) The New Mangalore Port Trust Board has approved the proposal to construct a Deep Draft Multi-purpose Berth at a cost of Rs. 37.54 crores in its

meeting held on 16th July 2001. In the Annual Plan for the year 2001-02, a provision of Rs. 1,0 crore exists for the scheme. The balance amount will be provided in the 10th Five Year Plan. Regarding augmentation of cargo handling facilities, an amount of Rs. 40 crores has been projected in the 10th Five Year Plan proposals of the Port for procurement and installation of cargo handling equipment.

(d) The construction work of the Berth is expected to commence from July 2002.

Increase in gross registered tonnage of Indian Shipping

1623. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken several steps to achieve an increase in the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of Indian Shipping during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether priority is also being accorded to modernisation and diversification of Indian fleet; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (b) Yes Sir.

The Government has taken several steps to increase the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of the Indian Shipping during the Ninth five year plan period. The steps taken are as under:—

(i) Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition;

(ii) The Shipping companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval from the Government;

(iii) Indian Shipping Companies can now time charter-out ships;

(iv) No permission is required for raising foreign exchange loans from abroad by mortgaging the vessel with the lender;

(v) Section 33 AC of Income Tax Act has been restored in its original form, thereby facilitating ploughing back of profits by Shipping Companies for new acquisition.